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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A fish net, comprising:
 - a. a frame;
 - 5 b. a net, attached to the frame; and
 - c. a length measuring scale, permanently disposed generally linearly on a surface of the net, such that a user may determine a size of a fish held in the net by visually
10 comparing the fish with the length measuring scale.
2. A fish net in accordance with claim 1,
15 wherein the length measuring scale further includes length markings, representing standard units of length, and numeral designations associated with the length markings.
3. A fish net in accordance with claim 2,
20 wherein the net includes a bottom, and the length markings include a zero point near the bottom, with two coordinated scales sharing the zero point and extending in opposing directions therefrom, whereby a user may visually determine
25 the length of the fish by substantially aligning the fish with the length scale, and adding the numeral designations which are approximately aligned with opposing ends of the fish.
- 30 4. A fish net in accordance with claim 1, wherein the length measuring scale includes length markings representing modified units of length to compensate for curvature of the fish and the length measuring scale.

5. A fish net in accordance with claim 1,
 wherein the net forms a pocket in which the fish
 naturally tends to rest in substantial linear
5 alignment with the length measuring scale.

6. A fish net in accordance with claim 1,
 wherein the frame further comprises a
 substantially closed loop portion having opposing
10 sides, and the length measuring scale extends
 from one side of the closed loop to the opposing
 side.

7. A fish net in accordance with claim 6,
15 wherein the net further comprises:
 - a. first and second side pieces with curved
 edges;
 - b. a substantially linear center piece, having
 side edges, the length measuring scale being
20 disposed on the center piece; and
 - c. the side edges of the center piece being
 connected to the curved edges of the first
 and second side pieces, forming a pocket in
 which the fish naturally tends to rest in
25 substantial linear alignment with the length
 measuring scale.

8. A fish net in accordance with claim 7,
 wherein the first and second side pieces and the
30 center piece are of the same material.

9. A fish net in accordance with claim 7,
 wherein the first and second side pieces and the
 center piece are of different materials.

10. A fish net in accordance with claim 7,
wherein the center piece is of a material
selected from the group consisting of: mesh and
5 net materials comprised of nylon, cotton, and
other polymers.
11. A fish net in accordance with claim 1,
wherein the net is of a material selected from
10 the group consisting of: mesh and net materials
comprised of nylon, cotton, and other polymers.
12. A fish net in accordance with claim 1,
wherein the length measuring scale is disposed on
15 the net by a process selected from the group
consisting of: weaving into the material of the
net; embroidering onto the material of the net;
printing on the material of the net; and silk-
screening onto the material of the net.
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13. A fish net in accordance with claim 1,
wherein the frame further comprises:
a. a handle; and
b. a substantially closed loop portion,
25 attached to the handle, the net being
attached to the loop portion.
14. A fish net, comprising:
a. a frame having:
30 i. a handle; and
ii. a substantially closed loop portion,
having opposite sides, attached to the
handle;
b. a net attached to the loop portion; and

c. a length measuring scale, having length markings with numeral designations representing units of length, disposed generally linearly on the net and extending from one side of the loop portion to an opposing side thereof, the net forming a pocket into which a fish naturally tends to rest in substantial linear alignment with the measuring scale, such that a user may determine a size of the fish held in the net by visually comparing the fish with the numeral designations on the length measuring scale.

15 15. A fish net in accordance with claim 14, wherein the net includes a bottom, and the length markings include a zero point near the bottom, with two coordinated scales sharing the zero point and extending in opposing directions therefrom, whereby a user may visually determine the length of the fish by adding the numeral designations which are approximately aligned with opposing ends of the fish.

25 16. A fish net in accordance with claim 14, wherein the length measuring scale includes length markings representing modified units of length to compensate for relative curvature of the fish and the length measuring scale.

30 17. A fish net in accordance with claim 14, wherein the net is of a material selected from the group consisting of: mesh and net materials comprised of nylon, cotton, and other polymers.

18. A method of measuring a size of a fish,
comprising the steps of:
- a. placing a fish within a fish net having a
5 length measuring scale integrally formed
therein;
 - b. aligning the fish with respect to the length
measuring scale; and
 - c. visually comparing the fish to the length
10 measuring scale, so as to determine a size
of the fish.
19. A method in accordance with claim 18,
wherein:
- a. the length measuring scale includes a zero
15 point approximately at a bottom of the net,
and further comprises two coordinated scales
with numeral designations, the two
coordinated scales sharing the zero point
20 and extending in opposing linear directions
therefrom; and
 - b. the step of visually comparing the fish to
the length measuring scale further comprises
adding the numeral designations which are
25 approximately aligned with opposing ends of
the fish.
20. A method in accordance with claim 18,
wherein the step of placing the fish within the
30 fish net further comprises causing the fish to
rest in a bottom of the net in substantial linear
alignment with the length scale.